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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR RO VE
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU
REF: CARACAS 7751 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: INTIMATE DETAILS OF CEAUSESCU VISIT NOW BEGINNING TO LEAK INDICATE ROMANIANS WERE VERY DIFFICULT VISITORS AND THAT HARASSED VENEZUELANS GAVE THEM A CORRECT, BUT COLD FAREWELL. HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE BELIED LACK OF SUBSTANCE IN AGREEMENTS AND STATEMENTS. ACCORDS, MOSTLY COMMERCIAL IN NATURE, WILL BE DISCUSSED IN SEPARATE REPORT. JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ONE OF THE BLANDEST SEEN HERE IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT STATE VISITS. CALDERA WAS INVITED TO VISIT ROMANIA BUT HAS NOT YET ACCEPTED. SPEECHES WERE PLATITUDINOUS AND NON-POLEMIC AND FOCUSED ON TRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND HOPES FOR DETENTE, PEACE AND INCREASED EXCHANGES. END SUMMARY

1. ENDING OF CEAUSESCU VISIT SEPTEMBER 10, IN CONTRACT TO CORDIAL WELCOME REPORTED REFTEL, APPARENTLY WAS COLD. PRESS, WHICH KEPT DISCREET SILENCE ABOUT PROBLEMS DURING VISIT, HAS BEGUN TO PRINT JUICY TIDBITS ABOUT ROMANIANS' BEHAVIOR WHICH INDICATE VENEZUELANS FOUND VISIT TO BE, AS ONE COLUMNIST PUT IT,
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A "VIA CRUCIS". CONSERVATIVE COLUMNIST CARLOS RANGEL GLEEFULLY

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RECOUNTED BOORISH BEHAVIOR OF CEAUSESCU PARTY FEATURING IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS ON HOSTS, INSULTS TO THOSE ASSIGNED TO CARE FOR THEM, AND EPISODE INVOLVING DRUNKEN CEAUSESCU SON ATTEMPTING TO BREAK INTO ROOM OF FEMALE TRANSLATOR.

2. TOP CARTOONIST SANCHO HAS PICTURE OF CALDERA SMILING ON OUTSIDE WAVING FAREWELL TO CEAUSESCU PARTY WHILE REAL SELF GRIMACES AND MOPS FEVERED BROW. VENEZUELANS ARE PROFESSIONALS AT WELCOMING IMPORTANT VISITORS; FOR THEM TO HAVE BEEN SO HARASSED INDICATED CEAUSESCU AND COMPANY WERE INDEED DIFFICULT CUSTOMERS. CENTRAL INFORMATION OFFICE DIRECTOR HAS CONFIRMED TO PAO THAT PRESS ACCOUNTS OF CEAUSESCU PARTY BOORISHNESS WERE ACCURATE.

3. HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE WAS IN INVERSE PROPORTION TO SUB-STANTIVE RESULTS OF VISIT. STATEMENTS ON ACCORDS POINT UP PAUCITY, SPECIFYING IMPLEMENTATION OF 1968 AGREEMENT OF CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND SIGNING OF: (A) LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND TRADE "MODUS VIVENDI"; (B) SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION "SKELETON AGREEMENT"; (C) AGRICULTURAL AND AGROINDUSTRIAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT; (D) WORKING PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN MINISTERS OF MINES AND PETROLEUM; AND (E) CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR 1973-1974. AGREEMENTS WERE MOSTLY COMMERCIAL IN NATURE AND WILL BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY IN AIRGRAM.

4. JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOCUSED ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, SELF-DETERMINATION, NON-INTERVENTION, ANTI-COLONIALISM, NON-USE OF FORCE, PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS OF DISPUTES, INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OTHER NON-CONTROVERSIAL GOOD THINGS. IT WAS ONE OF BLANDEST COMMUNIQUE SEEN IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT STATE VISITS. STATEMENTS MADE EMPHASIZED FACT THAT TWO LEADERS "POSITIVELY ASSESSED" RESULTS OF FIRST PHASE OF ALL-EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT ANDEAN COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, CALLED FOR HALTING ARMS RACE AND ACHIEVING DISARMAMENT AGREEMENT AND DENUCLEARIZED ZONES, AND NOTED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF STATE. CEAUSESCU INVITED CALDERA TO VISIT AND CALDERA
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"EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THIS INVITATION AND STATED THAT, CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTING, HE WILL PAY THIS VISIT WITH GREAT PLEASURE".

5. OTHER OBSERVERS HAVE ALSO NOTED LACK OF NEWSVALUE IN STATEMENTS, AGREEMENTS AND COMMUNIQUES. ACCORDING TO A EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT WHO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SEE DRAFT OF ONE DOCUMENT, WHOLE PARAGRAPHS WERE LIFTED BODILY FROM LANGUAGE

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OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. IMPLICATION IS THAT AGREEMENT ON ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE WAS FOUND HARD TO ACHIEVE. MUCH MORE ABOUT DETAILS AND SIGNIFICANCE WILL BE KNOWN AFTER NEXT MEETING OF THE ROMANIAN/VENEZUELAN WORKING GROUP IN BUCHAREST.

6. HEAVY FBIS COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS MADE DURING VISIT APPEARS TO MAKE FURTHER DETAILED REPORTING OF SPEECHES SUPERFLUOUS. MOST WERE PLATITUDINOUS AND NON-POLEMIC DISSERTATIONS ON TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND HOPED FOR DETENTE, PEACE AND INCREASED EXCHANGES.
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